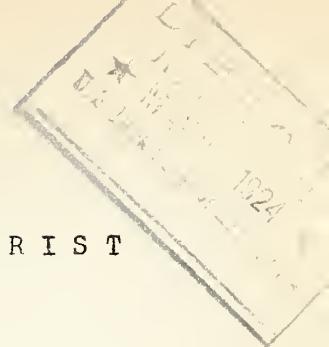


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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

May 1, 1924.

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* Annual reports are supposed to be a record of *
* aims and accomplishments for the year that has passed, *
* and a prospective outlook for the year or years to *
* come.
*
* A careful reading of the annual reports of the *
* horticultural specialists received by this office *
* shows a great lack in uniformity of presentation, and *
* an absence of real information, and, in some cases, *
* the writers have, in our judgment, omitted the most *
* outstanding results of their year's work. In other *
* words, many of the specialists are not doing them- *
* selves or their work credit or justice in the reports *
* that they are submitting.
*

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Office of Horticultural Investigations
and Extension Service Cooperating,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Annual Reports of State Fruit Specialists.

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In preparation for writing the 1923 report of fruit extension work throughout the country, the annual reports of state fruit specialists have been read. Some of the reports were excellent in that they stated the need of certain lines of work, the number of the different kinds of demonstrations, the number of people attending the demonstrations, the spread of influence in so far as could be determined by the number of people adopting the practices or the increased cash value of crops matured, the state maps showing number and location of all demonstrations, and the photographs of demonstrations. Too many of the state reports failed to give vital information - figures - on what was being accomplished. There was a great tendency to simply state that certain lines of work were being conducted, but not to state how much of each was being done nor the number of people reached. In short, most of the state reports do not do justice to the very large amount of splendid fruit extension work done in 1923 by the specialists reporting. Two non essentials were usually mentioned, the number of official letters written and the number of miles traveled by rail and auto.

Of the 28 fruit specialists who mentioned pruning in their reports, only 11 gave the number of pruning demonstrations and the number of people attending, 2 gave the number of demonstrations only, and 17 simply mentioned pruning as being done or as being a part of demonstration orchard work. Thus so far as the item of pruning is concerned only 11 out of 28 fruit specialists gave information of any value, and in some other lines the reports contain even less of value. Why do not the specialists give themselves all the credit the good work they are doing deserves? - C. P. C.

A reading of the reports of the vegetable specialists reveals that the same criticisms apply as with the fruit reports. - W. R. B.

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Garden Implement Demonstration - New Jersey.

"Seeing is believing" was the keynote of a rather unique implement demonstration conducted last week by C. H. Nissley, Vegetable Specialist of New Jersey. In reality, it was a movable school of labor saving equipment for truck gardeners and six different sections of the State were visited during the week. The writer had the pleasure of being present at one of these demonstrations and of observing the methods employed.

The object of the demonstration was to bring together for the inspection of the growers numerous types of improved equipment designed for use in the growing of vegetables and especially to give the growers a chance to see the operation of the various makes of small garden tractors. The manufacturers and dealers in these implements were given the opportunity to show their equipment under uniform conditions and thus give the growers an opportunity to form their own conclusions.

The general plan of operation was to practically cover the truck growing sections of the State, one day being spent in each important region. Arrangements for land on which the demonstrations were conducted were made by the county agents in advance. The land was fitted and a portion of it drilled to rye with the rows of rye about the same distance apart as ordinary vegetable crops such as onions, are planted. The locations of the demonstrations were on important roadways where they would be accessible, both for the trucks transporting the machinery and for the growers. In actual operation the demonstrations were conducted mainly during the afternoons, the mornings being spent in moving the equipment.

Over 200 automobiles were lined up along the roadway at the demonstration visited by the writer. Two special state road officers were detailed to handle the traffic at each of the demonstrations. The equipment used in the demonstrations was unloaded, assembled and all ready for operation at the time specified for staging the demonstration.

In a short address Mr. Nissley outlined the purpose of the demonstration and called attention to the fact that the College did not recommend any specific implement, but merely brought them together in order that they might be seen in comparative operation. There were sprayers, dusters, plows, harrows, seed drills, irrigation equipment, home lighting and home water plants, and a large number of small and medium size tractors. The demonstrations were arranged in groups, first, the very small tractors were put in operation, later, the larger ones, then the other types of equipment. After the group demonstrations the whole program was thrown open and the crowd split up into small groups according to the line of implements that they were interested in.

This plan of a movable demonstration or school of labor saving implements is of special value in a state like New Jersey where the vegetable interests are concentrated or of great importance. Under present labor conditions the vegetable growers are naturally looking for equipment that will aid them, but are often unable to judge as to the implement that will give them best results without seeing the various makes in actual operation. Under the plan followed by Mr. Nissley the College does not assume any responsibility, except to see that the demonstrations are fair and impartial. In our judgment, this class of work may be of great aid to the growers.

One of the demonstrations was attended by several county agents of Pennsylvania in whose counties the vegetable interests are important.
W. R. B.

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Some Information Please.

Will the fruit and vegetable specialists who have had experience with any of the hand dusters please share their experience with us at the earliest possible date? We want to know which in your experience is the most efficient type - the bellows or fan - for fruit trees ten feet high and for garden crops. If you have not used these dusters perhaps an entomologist at your institution has, ask him.

From Iowa to Ohio.

Mr. C. S. Holland, formerly assistant in the fruit extension work in Iowa, has recently accepted a position in the same capacity in Ohio. He will take up the fruit extension work previously carried by Prof. R. B. Cruickshank.

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Pennsylvania Heard From.

The following splendid letter was received from W. B. Nissley, Vegetable Specialist:

"I was very much interested in your paragraph on "National Garden Week" in the last issue of the "Extension Horticulturist." In Pennsylvania we are boosting this good work all we can. Articles have been prepared to be sent out through every channel of our publicity service, including the County Agents News Letter, and the clip sheet which goes to every newspaper in the State. We have also made arrangements to broadcast home garden talks from five of the leading stations of the State. Our program every Monday evening from Station WPAB at State College, Pennsylvania, consists of agricultural talks and is known as Farm and Garden night. At this time each week the Extension Service in Vegetable Gardening broadcasts timely hints and precautions for home gardeners.

We consider the farm garden of such importance in Pennsylvania that it is one of our major projects. Prof. C. R. Mason, who was formerly connected with the instructional work in Vegetable Gardening here at State College, has been added to the Extension Service, to devote most of his time to this work. We are locating over the State some type demonstration home gardens laid out according to our plans and on which accurate cost and production records will be kept. Similar records will also be kept on the old style small hand worked farm gardens of twenty years ago, which we still have with us. We also expect to keep cost records on two type gardens maintained at the experiment station. One to be one-half acre in size handled with horse-power and another somewhat smaller handled with approved hand tools. The three objects that we are trying to put across are (1) The arrangement of the old style garden, (2) Advocating a greater variety for the home gardener, and (3) A plan of succession cropping whereby the garden will be utilized to the fullest extent all season and a supply be available for winter storage.

I must add that the Domestic Science Extension Workers are very helpful in arousing interest and scheduling meetings. Our activities with commercial growers include over 200 demonstrations on which records are kept.

Each year I realize more fully the value of efficient and properly directed publicity, I think that some of us are prone to chase around too much, especially when numerous petty calls come in for help. A day a week devoted to thought and the timely writing of articles is important, especially in a large state."

Horticultural Extension Literature Received During
April, 1924.

- Arkansas - College of Agriculture, Little Rock.
Growing Sweet Potatoes (A manual for club members)
Ext. Cir. 158, Feb. 1924.
Growing Early Irish Potatoes. Ext. Cir. 159, Feb. 1924.
Lubricating Oil Emulsion for the Control of San Jose Scale.
Ext. Cir. 164, March 1924.
The Codling Moth in Arkansas. Ext. Cir. 166, April 1924.
- Indiana - Purdue University, Lafayette.
Apple Spraying. Ext. Bul. 80, March 1924.
Purdue Handbook of Agricultural Facts. 1924.
- Kansas - State Agricultural College, Manhattan.
Spraying Kansas Fruits. April 1924.
The Community Flower Show. X-Form 205, Feb. 1924.
- Maine - University of Maine, Orono.
Winter Protection for Young Apple Trees. Cir. 80, March 1924.
- Missouri - University of Missouri, Columbia.
Spraying Grapes in Missouri. Cir. 141, March 1924.
Cluster-Bud Spray for Apples. Cir. 142, March 1924.
- Nevada - University of Nevada, Reno.
Potato Club Demonstration Requirements. Leaflet 40, 1924.
Vegetable Gardening Club Demonstration Requirements Leaflet 43, 1924.
Potato Club Demonstration Team Outline. Leaflet 49, 1924.
Planning the Farm - Home Vegetable Garden. Leaflet 53, 1924.
- New Hampshire - University of New Hampshire, Durham.
Potato Growing in New Hampshire. Ext. Bul. 23, January 1924.
Gardening in New Hampshire. Ext. Bul. 25, February 1924.
- New York - College of Agriculture, Ithaca.
Culture of Asparagus. Ext. Bul. 81, March 1924.
Apple Spray Schedule - Leaflet.
- North Carolina - State College of Agriculture - Raleigh.
The Plum Curculio on Peaches and Its Control. Ext. Cir. 144, Mch. 1924.
- South Carolina - Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson College P. O.
Commercial Harvesting, Grading and Marketing of Asparagus in
South Carolina. Ext. Bul. 61, March 1924.
- Vermont - University of Vermont, Burlington.
Pointed Paragraphs on Home Vegetable Gardening. Cir. 29, March 1924.
- Washington - State College, Pullman.
Dipping Seed Potatoes. Bul. 112, March 1924.
- Wisconsin - University of Wisconsin, Madison.
Grow Sweet Corn for Seed. Stencil Bul. 74, March 1924.

W. R. Beattie,
C. P. Close,

Extension Horticulturists.

